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**From:** Hlabse, Tina [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3AE2A55B455047849C1491352D9D5D34-HLABTI]  
**Sent:** 8/29/2017 3:16:30 PM  
**To:** White, Julia W [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d92f33e7d43e44a9b15d6ec92e2348cb-jwbuckner]  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey  
**Attachments:** 2017 August RVP waiver.pdf

**TINA L. HLABSE | GENERAL COUNSEL | NC Dep't of Agriculture & Consumer Services |**  
919-707-3013 (office)  
919-733-1141 (fax)

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**From:** Benjamin, Steve  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2017 7:35 AM  
**To:** David McGowan <McGowanD@api.org>  
**Cc:** Helfrich, Marcus R <marcus.helfrich@ncagr.gov>; Reardon, Joe W <joe.reardon@ncagr.gov>; Wagner, Derek A <Derek.Wagner@ncagr.gov>; Howard, John <john.howard@ncagr.gov>; Smith, David <david.smith@ncagr.gov>; Davis, Steve (NCEM) <Steve.Davis@ncdps.gov>; Hlabse, Tina <Tina.Hlabse@ncagr.gov>; Long, Brian A <brian.long@ncagr.gov>; Overton, Heather <Heather.Overton@ncagr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

Dave,

Please see the attached.

Stephen

Stephen Benjamin, CPM  
Director, Standards Division  
NCDA&CS  
(919) 707-3226  
[steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov](mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov)

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**From:** David McGowan [<mailto:McGowanD@api.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2017 3:28 PM  
**To:** Benjamin, Steve <[steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov](mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Helfrich, Marcus R <[marcus.helfrich@ncagr.gov](mailto:marcus.helfrich@ncagr.gov)>; Reardon, Joe W <[joe.reardon@ncagr.gov](mailto:joe.reardon@ncagr.gov)>; Wagner, Derek A <[Derek.Wagner@ncagr.gov](mailto:Derek.Wagner@ncagr.gov)>; Howard, John <[john.howard@ncagr.gov](mailto:john.howard@ncagr.gov)>; Smith, David <[david.smith@ncagr.gov](mailto:david.smith@ncagr.gov)>; Davis, Steve (NCEM) <[Steve.Davis@ncdps.gov](mailto:Steve.Davis@ncdps.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

Stephen,

Following up on our phone conversation earlier today, attached above is our official request for a waiver of NC Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) regulations to allow for the use of 11.5# RVP product prior to September 15<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, we are asking the State of North Carolina work with other surrounding states to encourage EPA to issue a regional RVP waiver and to allow for the co-mingling of Reformulated Blendstock with Conventional Blendstock in the areas where Conventional Blendstocks are currently prohibited (example from Hurricane Issac attached).

Thank you very much for your assistance!

David

David McGowan, III  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Petroleum Council  
(919)256-3646 office  
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**From:** Benjamin, Steve [<mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 5:09 PM  
**To:** David McGowan  
**Cc:** Helfrich, Marcus R; Reardon, Joe W; Wagner, Derek A; Howard, John; Smith, David  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

That would have to begin with EPA as it is their requirement. Our regulations allow me to waive volatility specs.

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Original message-----

**From:** David McGowan  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 25, 2017 3:06 PM  
**To:** Benjamin, Steve;  
**Cc:** Helfrich, Marcus R; Reardon, Joe W; Wagner, Derek A; Howard, John; Smith, David;  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

Thank you. I'm not 100% sure myself and am awaiting the specific request. My general understanding is that we will possibly need the ability to use RFG in conventional states & vice versa. I understand EPA may be working on a regional waiver but am not certain of the timing...

Will keep you posted just wanted to put it on your radar.

Thanks again,  
David

On Aug 25, 2017, at 2:22 PM, Benjamin, Steve <[steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov](mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov)> wrote:

Hi Dave,

I tend to carry my phone most of the time, so you can email or call at 919-218-5265. We don't require any RFG in NC, so I am not clear what it is they may be asking us to waive. We'll standby.

Stephen

Stephen Benjamin, CPM  
Director, Standards Division  
NCDA&CS  
(919) 707-3226  
[steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov](mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov)

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**From:** David McGowan [<mailto:McGowanD@api.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 2:11 PM

**To:** Benjamin, Steve <[steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov](mailto:steve.benjamin@ncagr.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

FYI - I expect waiver requests later this weekend or on Monday. Not sure what exactly but I suspect we'll need RFG & Conventional fungibility at least.

Will keep you posted. What is the best way to reach you over the next few days? I'll try not to bother you!!

Thanks,  
David

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Michael Tadeo" <[TadeoM@api.org](mailto:TadeoM@api.org)>

**To:** "Michael Tadeo" <[TadeoM@api.org](mailto:TadeoM@api.org)>

**Subject:** MEDIA ALERT: U.S. oil and natural gas industry prepares for Hurricane Harvey

Good afternoon,

America's oil and natural gas industry is committed to securing the nation's critical energy infrastructure and working with federal, state, and local government officials in preparation and response to hurricanes and other weather events.

With Hurricane Harvey expected to make landfall in the Corpus Christi, Texas area late this evening or early tomorrow morning, we wanted to provide a brief on the industry's oil and natural gas assets in the region; offer additional information on how our industry prepares for and adapts to these weather events; and make API's subject matter experts available to you in case you need additional information.

Hurricane and tropical storm activity can potentially disrupt U.S. oil and natural gas operations, especially as Hurricane Harvey is forecast to make landfall along the Gulf Coast region, which houses many of the nation's refinery and natural gas processing centers.

The Gulf Coast region of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas is the heart of the nation's oil and natural gas industry. According to the EIA, the U.S. Gulf of Mexico

accounts for nearly 20 percent of total U.S. crude oil production, and the Texas Gulf Coast is home to [more than 25 percent of U.S. refining capacity](#). This makes the Gulf Coast the largest domestic supplier of transportation fuels.

As an industry, we develop extensive guidelines and best practices to assist companies in protecting workers, securing infrastructure and ensuring environmental protections in the case of a supply disruption. America's vast energy infrastructure network is designed to sustain disruptive events like Hurricane Harvey, due to its geographic diversity and industry experience responding to similar storms over the years, such as Rita, Ike and Sandy. Industry engagement with federal, state, and local government officials to improve preparedness for hurricanes and other natural or man-made disasters is another way in which system resilience is improved.

For more information:

- [API has assembled a factsheet](#) to help consumers better understand the interconnected U.S. fuel supply system and what happens when a supply shock, such as a major hurricane, occurs.
  - The factsheet is attached to this email and [is available online](#).
- [Oil and Natural Gas Industry Hurricane Preparedness](#) website is available also.

Also, API has aggregated information regarding federal hurricane resources. This information can be found [here](#) or at <http://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/hurricane-information>.

If you need any additional information or would like to speak with a subject matter expert from API, please don't hesitate to reach out to us via email at [tadeom@api.org](mailto:tadeom@api.org) or at 202-682-8114.

Thank you.

Mike Tadeo  
API Spokesman

**Michael Tadeo**  
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